

In the Specification

Please replace paragraph [0078] with the following amended paragraph.

[0078] The energy storage device 412 has a nominal voltage substantially similar to the optimal voltage of the fuel cell 218. ~~In this regard, a substantially similar voltage would be one which is within less than about 10% of the optimal voltage of the fuel cell.~~ In an exemplary application, it is desired to provide a substantially constant direct current voltage of a predetermined amount between output terminals 421, and 423. Accordingly, it is desired to provide a direct current voltage potential which is just slightly greater across terminals 416 and 422 to account for the voltage drop across a diode 418. In the embodiment shown in Fig. 11 the energy storage device 412 has a nominal voltage of greater than about 12 Volts DC, which is substantially identical to the D.C. output across terminals 421, and 423. In certain embodiments the diode 418 may be eliminated.